

Today in Corps history:
Dec. 12, 1941: The United States declares war upon Nazi Germany.

Source: Marine Corps History

FAST FACT



Local: WMA provides sweet treats for vets, see Page 4

News: Working dogs receive new gear in time for Christmas, see Page 7

District News: Recruiting leader receives recognition, see Page 5

THE BOOT

“We Make Marines”

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Serving the Marines and Sailors of MCRD/ERR Parris Island, S.C.

December 12, 2003

Depot News

DEPOT ITT OFFERING NEW YEARS ON WATER

The Information, Ticket and Tours office is offering tickets for a New Years Eve celebration aboard the Savannah River Boat. The trip includes transportation, entertainment, appetizers, party favors and a champagne toast at midnight. Participants must be 21 years old. The cost is \$40 per person and payment must be made by today. For more, call ITT at 228-1540.

COMMISSARY OFFERING COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are being accepted for the Defense Commissary Agency's scholarship program, which awards scholarships to children of military parents.

Applications can be found at www.militaryscholar.org.

On the Web

2004 BASIC PAY CHART AVAILABLE ONLINE

The new Basic Pay Rates, effective Jan. 1, 2004, reflect the recently signed National Defense Authorization Act. They can be found at www.military.com/resources/resource-content/0,13964,34041,00.html

GET CANDIDATE, VOTING DETAILS ON THE WEB

The government has set up www.fvap.gov to give potential voters all the information they could need. Visitors to the site can find links to teach them how to register to vote, who is running in their area as well as directions for communicating with a voting assistance officer.

Out in Town

HUMANE ASSOCIATION TO HOST SANTA PAWS

The Beaufort Humane Association will host its annual Santa Paws event Saturday, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Farmer's Market at Waterfront Park in downtown Beaufort. There will be pictures with Santa, arts and crafts, holiday pet information and baked goods for sale. The event will also feature pet psychic Diane Samsel from Charleston by appointment. For more information, visit www.beauforthumane.org or call 522-9165.

HILTON HEAD MEDICAL CENTER 5K RUN/WALK

Hilton Head Medical Center and Clinics hosts their Jingle Bell 5K Road Race and Health Walk Dec. 20 at 9 a.m. All standard male and female running divisions will be available.

To register, call Bear Foot Sports at 379-3440.

ORCHESTRA PRESENTS THE MAGIC TOYSHOP

The Hilton Head Orchestra and Dance Theatre along with the Sun City Chorus present The Magic Toyshop Dec. 19 - 20. The shows are at 8 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church at 540 Hilton Parkway. For more information, call 842-2055 or visit www.hhorchestra.org.

Weather



Friday
Sunny
Hi 58 Low 40
Saturday
Few Showers
Hi 61 Low 48
Sunday
Few Showers
Hi 65 Low 49

Inside



MCCS- SC: 12 Days of Fitness challenges Depot

Two Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina Semper Fit employees, whose lives are ruled by good health and exercise, have begun a personal crusade ...

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New commissary director brings changes, less wait for customers

CPL. JENNIFER BROFER
STAFF WRITER

When James Hayden took over as the Depot Commissary director in November, he sought out to improve the store's appearance, efficiency and overall quality of produce and selection.

Hayden has high hopes that the changes he will implement Jan. 1 will turn his vision into reality.

One of the first changes will be increasing and changing the selection of the "Grab 'n' Go" area and increasing visibility near the front entrance, said Hayden. The area will be stocked with sandwiches, salads, beverages, yogurt and other items. Customers can take their items directly to the express line, which will be located closer to the entrance, making for quicker service.

To reduce overcrowding in the lines, the express line will be moved from



“We want people to think of us before going [out in town].”
- James Hayden, Depot Commissary director who took over management in November

register one to register 10, creating an additional line at the opposite end of the store. This means less waiting in line.

"It'll be a quick in and out for the customers," explained Hayden. "They can just grab something from the Grab 'n' Go and then go straight to the express line and not have to go across to the other end of the store."

According to Hayden, one of the biggest problems the store faces is long lines on Recruit Liberty and Family

Day – a problem that can be solved with a simple logistical change.

"On Family Day we get a whole lot of recruits at one time, so everything's a big bottleneck," explained Hayden, who admitted that when business is really busy, the express line and the regular line overlap. By adding another line at the other end of the store, it eases the congestion, so even if we're busy we won't have two lines overlapping."

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Golf for tots ...



Lance Cpl. Brian Kester

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Randy L. Wentworth chips toward the green in the Toys for Tots Golf Tournament at The Legends of Parris Island Dec. 6. Each participant donated a new toy as the entrance fee to be given to the local Toys for Tots drive. Legends has held this tournament for the past 20 years.

RTR names McClure, McNeal NCO, Marine of the year

Top Marines receive Navy Achievement Medals for hard work, dedication to duty

CPL. ALISHA R. FITZGERALD
STAFF WRITER

The Recruit Training Regiment awarded its NCO of the Year at Support Bn. Headquarters and its Marine of the Year at the 4th RTBn.

Conference Room Dec. 2.

Sergeant Josh McClure, an assistant recruit special screener at Naval Security Group, Support Bn., and Cpl. Christopher McNeal, a personnel administrator at 4th RTBn. S-1, were named RTR's top Marines after winning their respective boards at the regiment level.

McClure and McNeal, who were both awarded Navy Achievement Medals during their respective awards ceremonies, got the opportunity to

compete for the boards after recommendations by their staff NCOs and reviews of their Service Record Books. This was not the first time the two Marines had been honored for their superior job performance.

McClure was named NCO and Marine of the Year at his previous duty station, working for Collection Site Intelligence, Company A Marines in Denver.

McNeal was recently named RTR's Marine of the Quarter

for the fourth quarter. After achieving first-rate marks in his SRB and earning the respect of his fellow Marines at 4th RTBn., he said he was not surprised by the nomination.

"My staff sergeant says I'm a good Marine," said McNeal, who was also meritoriously promoted to corporal during his award ceremony. "People know they can count on me. I guess I'm what you'd call a go-to person."

Not only is McNeal good at his job, but he also goes

above and beyond the call of duty by volunteering for things outside of his everyday tasks. He received a Certificate of Commendation for volunteering to help raise the National Colors at the Depot's Iwo Jima Monument on the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks.

When he is not volunteering for extra duty, McNeal said there are several things that keep him striving for excellence

see **AWARD, Page 7**

Depot, USO to celebrate Christmas with concert

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN N. HAYNES
PRESS CHIEF

The Depot will be conducting a Christmas concert at the Lyceum Saturday at 8 p.m. for all service members, their families, retirees and civilians in the Tri-Command area.

The concert, which is hosted by Brig. Gen. Joseph J. McMenamin, commanding general, MCRD/ERR Parris Island, is entitled "A USO Christmas" featuring the Parris Island Jazz Band and the Liberty Belles of the USO performing an old-time USO show to include decorations geared toward war-year events such as blood drives, Red Cross and Salvation Army coffee stands.

The Liberty Belles, along with the Band, will be performing classic songs from the 1940s and 50s such as, "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "Don't Sit Under the Apple

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Exercise your right to vote, change future

CPL. THOMAS PERRY
STAFF WRITER

With the presidential primary elections quickly approaching, it is more important than ever to get out and vote. Many people believe that their vote does not matter, yet there have been many elections – not just on a local level – that have been decided by less than 100 votes. So, thinking your vote does not count could not be further from the truth.

"Voting is the opportunity given to Americans, as members of a democracy, to voice their opinions and share concerns on issues regarding policy making and representation," said Capt. Eric H. Ladson, H&S Bn. adjutant and voting officer. "It's your future. Vote for it!"

In a recent poll taken by CNN, many young people admitted that they often believe that all of the candidates are the same.

"There are many ways to obtain good background information on each candidate, but it takes time and requires a little research," said Ladson. "The Internet is a great tool for military members to use in conducting research on candidates."

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In 1960, 63 percent of the American electorate voted. By 1996, that number had dropped to under 40 percent.